

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144052
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 /015 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:KEHONAN:MM
APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:DONEWBERRY
-----032648 212126Z /72
O 212053Z JUN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144052

FROM NEA/EGY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, EG (RAUF, MOHAMMED ABDUL)

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO TESTIFY

REF: A) STATE 141267; B) CAIRO 10216

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY EFFORTS. UNFORTUNATELY DEPOSITION
IS NOT PERMITTED IN CRIMINAL CASES.

2. D.C. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS ALSO SPOKEN TO RAUF AND
DESPITE THEIR ENTREATIES AND THOSE OF HIS SON, HE REMAINS
UNWILLING FOR PERSONAL REASONS TO RETURN HERE BEFORE
JULY 10. RAUF'S TESTIMONY IS CONSIDERED CENTRAL TO A
MAJOR PORTION OF THE CASE AND HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR WILL
FORCE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO DROP SEVERAL CHARGES AGAINST
DEFENDANTS AND TO PUBLICLY STATE REASONS FOR DOING SO.
WE BELIEVE PUBLICITY WILL REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON BOTH
RAUF AND ISLAMIC CENTER.

3. WE THINK THAT THE BEST APPROACH NOW WOULD BE FOR AMBAS-
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SADOR GHORBAL TO APPROACH RAUF AND URGE HIS APPEARANCE.
AS YOU KNOW, GHORBAL PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS-
FUL RESOLUTION OF THE HOSTAGE SITUATION AND IS A CLOSE
PERSONAL FRIEND OF RAUF'S. GHORBAL HOPEFULLY CAN OVERCOME
RAUF'S RELUCTANCE TO RETURN.

4. RAUF CAN BE REACHED, UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING, AT

CECIL HOTEL IN ALEXANDRIA. HE IS THEN PROCEEDING TO MEHALLA AND TO CAIRO ON FRIDAY. (HIS FAMILY MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE WHEREABOUTS IN THESE TWO CITIES.)

5. REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT GHORBAL (EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAS PROMISED TO CABLE BUT RAPID RESPONSE IS NECESSARY) AND EXPLAIN SITUATION TO HIM AND ASK THAT HE USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE RAUF TO RETURN IN ORDER TO TESTIFY MONDAY, JUNE 27.

6. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY. VANCE

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